



MTS-3290US

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No: 09/990,032
Applicants: Takahiro Kudo et al.
Filed: November 21, 2001
Title: GROUP FORMING SYSTEM, GROUP FORMING APPARATUS, GROUP FORMING METHOD, PROGRAM, AND MEDIUM
TC/A.U.: 2171
Examiner: Hanh B. Thai
Confirmation No.: 2767
Docket No.: MTS-3290US

SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed references is also enclosed.

Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The following Japanese references are not in the English language:

- 1) Umeki et al., "Supporting Network Community Formation", The Special Interest Group Notes of IPS, Vol. 2000, No. 63, pp. 25-30, July 11, 2000;

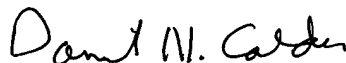
- 2) Hashimoto, et al., "Network Community Construction Model and A Support Tool Based on the Model: Topic Presentation Agent", The Special Interest Group Notes of IPS, Vol. 99, No. 79, pp. 37-42, September 27, 1999;
- 3) Ariga, et al., "Proposal of Active Measure for Network Community in JEGLO model", Proceedings of the 58th Annual Convention IPS, Japan, pp. 4-49, 4-50, March 11, 1999; and
- 4) JP 10-301946.

References 1), 2) and 4) include an English abstract and References 1) to 3) include a partial English translation.

References 1) to 4) were cited by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is submitted herewith. MPEP 609 IIIA(3), second paragraph.

No first Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. No fee or statement is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel N. Calder, Reg. 27,424
Attorney for Applicants

DNC/fp

Enclosures: PTO Form 1449 (2 sheets)
Japanese Office Action
(#4) References
Transmittal Form

Dated: July 26, 2004

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

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July 26, 2004





(Use as many sheets as necessary)

SHEET 1 of 2

PTO/SB/08A (AW 4/25/03) (04-03)
Approved for use through 04/30/2004. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/990,032
Filing Date	November 21, 2001
First Named Inventor	Takahiro KUDO, et al.
Art Unit	2171
Examiner Name	Hanh B. Thai
Attorney Docket No.	MTS-3290US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (If known)				
		JP 10-301946 (with English abstract)	11/13/98	FUJITSU LTD.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional).

²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

¹Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard St.3).

⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible.

*Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

The collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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Substantive Examination 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

SHEET 2 of 2

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/990,032
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First Named Inventor	Takahiro KUDO, et al.
Art Unit	2171
Examiner Name	Hanh B. Thai
Attorney Docket No.	MTS-3290US

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		Japanese Office Action dated April 27, 2004.	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Umeki et al., "Supporting Network Community Formation", The Special Interest Group Notes of IPSJ, Vol. 2000, No. 63, pp. 25-30, July 11, 2000 (with English abstract and partial English translation).	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Hashimoto, et al., "Network Community Construction Model and A Support Tool Based on the Model: Topic Presentation Agent", The Special Interest Group Notes of IPSJ, Vol. 99, No. 79, pp. 37-42, September 27, 1999 (with English abstract and partial English translation).	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Ariga, et al., "Proposal of Active Measure for Network Community in JEGLO model", Proceedings of the 58th Annual Convention IPS, Japan, pp. 4-49, 4-50, March 11, 1999 (with partial English translation).	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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2171 IFW

PTO/SB/21 (02-04) (AW 02/2004)

Approved for use through 7/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission 11 +
JPO OA + 4 references

Application Number	09/990,032
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Art Unit	2171
Examiner Name	Hanh B. Thai
Attorney Docket No.	MTS-3290US

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Fee Transmittal Form
 - ☐ Fee Attached
- ☐ Amendment/Reply
 - ☐ After Final
 - ☐ Affidavits/Declaration(s)
- ☐ Extension of Time Request
- ☐ Express Abandonment Request
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
- ☐ Response to Missing Parts/
Incomplete Application
 - ☐ Response to Missing Parts under
37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53

- ☐ Drawing(s)
- ☐ Licensing-related Papers
- ☐ Petition
- ☐ Petition to Convert to a
Provisional Application
- ☐ Power of Attorney, Revocation,
Change of Correspondence
Address
- ☐ Terminal Disclaimer
- ☐ Request for Refund
- ☐ CD, Number of CD(s) _____

- ☐ After Allowance Communication
to Group
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Board
of Appeals and Interferences
- ☐ Appeal Communication to Group
(Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply
Brief)
- ☐ Proprietary Information
- ☐ Status Letter
- ☒ Other Enclosure(s) (please
identify below):

**PTO Form 1449, JPO OA, 4
references, return postcard****Remarks:****SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT**

Firm or Individual Name	Daniel N. Calder	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	27,424
Signature	<i>Daniel N. Calder</i>		
Date	July 26, 2004		

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION / MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this date:

Typed or printed name	Fran Petrillo		
Signature	<i>Fran Petrillo</i>	Date	July 26, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Office, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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